

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030574

BRIDGETOWN FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD

FOL RPT BOGOTA 1252 ACTION SECSTATE 5 FEB.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1252

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM

REF: A) STATE 18860; B) 22439

1.AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED PROPOSALS REFTELS WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER LIEVANO FEB 3. HE IS BASICALLY IN SYMPATHY  
WITH OUR PROPOSALS (WITH ONE EXCEPTION, SEE BELOW).  
HE ASKED FOR TIME TO THINK ABOUT OUR POSITIONS AND HOW  
PROCEDURALLY AND TACTICALLY WE MIGHT BEGIN. HE  
PROMISED TO MEET AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS. HE CLAIMED EVERY  
WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US RE THESE INITIATIVES. HE  
STRESSED NEED FOR A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON A NEW CONCEPT  
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OR PURPOSE FOR THE OAS IF ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL

CHANGES IS TO BE ACHIEVED.

2. LIEVANO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HE DISAGREES WITH THE IDEA OF REDUCING THE REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERS TO A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE. HE HAS, AS DEPT. KNOWS, GREAT RESERVATIONS AS TO UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF MINI-STATES (SEE 75 BOGOTA 11725). HE DOES NOT SEE WHY WE SHOULD MAKE IT ANY EASIER FOR MINI-STATES TO BECOME MEMBERS AND THINKS THERE IS SOME LOGICAL CONTRADICTION BETWEEN ELIMINATING ARTICLE 8 RESTRICTION AND REDUCING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MEMBERS ON THE ONE HAND, AND TRYING TO STEER THEM OFF INTO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ON THE OTHER.

B. HE THINKS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ITEMS ARE ELIMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND STRENGTHENING OF THE SECRETARIAT. THESE HE THINKS ARE THE REAL NUB OF THE PROPOSALS AND WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE. HE WOULD SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS, HOWEVER.

3. LIEVANO THEN SAID THAT A BASIC NEED IS TO ARTICULATE SOME SORT OF PURPOSE OR CONCEPT FOR A NEW OAS. SINCE ELIMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT CONSTITUTED MAJOR SURGERY, THERE HAD TO BE SOME GOOD PURPOSE, CLEARLY ACCEPTED AND EXPLAINED, TO JUSTIFY IT. OAS MEMBERS ARE UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THESE DRASTIC MEASURES FOR THEIR OWN SAKE. IN SHORT, THE QUESTION IS "STREAMLINING FOR WHAT"? LIEVANO STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT "IDEOLGY", AND NOT NECESSARILY ABOUT RHETORIC OR LABELS. RATHER WHAT HE MEANT WAS THAT THERE MUST BE SOME MEETING OF THE MINDS ON A NEW PURPOSE AND CONCEPT OF THE ROLE THE OAS SHOULD FILL, FROM WHICH THE PRO-CEDURAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REFORMS WOULD FLOW AND BY WHICH THEY WOULD BE EXPLAINED AND ACCEPTED.

4. LIEVANO THEN SPOKE ELOQUENTLY ON A THEME HE HAS STRESSED BEFORE. THERE MUST BE, HE SAID, A CLOSE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA, AND THE

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OAS PROVIDED THE MECHANISM BY WHICH A NORTH-SOUTH CHANNEL FOR THE HEMISPHERE COULD BE MAINTAINED. IN EFFECT, HE SAID, THERE WAS NEED FOR A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, BUT NEITHER SIDE WOULD FIND IT IN ITS INTEREST TO LABEL IT AS SUCH PUBLICLY. THE WORLD, HE SAID, WAS DIVIDING INTO BLOCS--THE LOME BLOC, THE SOCIALIST WORLD, THE COMMONWEALTH, THE ECONOMIC BLOCS ROUGHLY GROUPED AROUND THE GERMAN MARK AND THE JAPANESE YEN. ONLY

LATIN AMERICA HAD NO LARGER GROUP TO WHICH IT COULD RELATE. IF IT DOES NOT SO RELATE THE REGION WILL FRAGMENT, AND SEEK SUPPORT BY A VARIETY OF CONNECTIONS--TO NON-ALIGNED, THE 77, ETC. AND THESE, HE AFFIRMED, TEND TO BE CONFRONTATIONAL, I.E. TO HAVE FORMED TO CONFRONT THE US. LATIN AMERICAN GROUPS LIKE SELA, HE SAID, WOULD BECOME ALTERNATIVES TO LACK OF CHANNELS TO THE US, AND THEIR CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECTS WOULD BECOME HEIGHTENED IF THE OAS COLLAPSED OR BECAME INEFFECTIVE.

5. AS TO WHAT WOULD PROVIDE THE SUBSTANCE FOR RELATIONS AMONG US, AND FOR WHICH THE OAS WOULD PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK, LIEVANO SAID WE SHOULD PERHAPS GO BACK TO THE CONSENSUS OF VINA DEL MAR, BECAUSE THAT WAS A SINCERE AND FORTHRIGHT EXPRESSION OF LATIN FRUSTRATION AND CONCERN. HE DID NOT, HE SAID, SUGGEST THAT THAT BECOME THE AGENDA, BUT RATHER THAT THAT BE VIEWED AS BROADLY LOCATING LA CONCERNS, AND THEREFORE PERHAPS SUGGESTING SOME OF THE THEMES FOR WHICH WE SHOULD ORGANIZATIONALLY PREPARE OURSELVES.

6. LIEVANO SAID THAT THESE WERE HIS PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS AS TO THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNING OF OAS REFORM; HE WANTED TO DEVELOP THEM MORE SYSTEMATICALLY. THEREFORE, I URGED HIM TO DO SO, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF HE REDUCED THEM TO WRITING IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.  
VAKY

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